

I am a Chicago area professional drummer and percussionist. I perform with many local "original singer-songwriters" (songwriters that write and perform their own works). I often help the songwriters with the administrative side of the music business. This includes putting press kits together and into the hands of broadcasters.

The acts that I perform with are unsigned. This means that the administrative aspects must be handled ourselves and financed independently. The administrative side of the music business is large. It includes getting works copyrighted, CD's recorded and manufactured, press kits in the hands of local and national media, and the booking of all shows. The Media in Chicago is large and has to cover many areas. Thus, many local artists get lost in the shuffle.

The artists I have performed with have submitted music to local stations and have had one song performed on the radio. It was for a specialty show featuring local music on a commercial station. However, most of the radio stations do not air the music that is submitted to them.

Most local artists rely on these specialty "Local Artist Hour" type shows for their radio exposure. However, these shows are typically scheduled at off-peak listening times. The commercial stations that feature these shows are usually younger audience oriented or non-popular music format. In general, local stations do support local artist. However, there could be more time devoted to them rather than one hour a week at an off peak time. Also, the popular and adult formats could stand to broadcast more local acts.

The FCC should allow the local broadcasters to define local programming, but enforce a minimum time for the local programs.

I believe that the FCC should define local programming as "locally produced". Local could include the city and local suburbs up to 100 miles. "Locally produced" should be the definition to help cover artists that record and perform "Standards or Cover music" (not originally written by the performer). The FCC should insure that these programming decisions are made at the local level.

Local programming should cover news and public affairs as well as entertainment. I believe that the local broadcasters should define their own programming, but the FCC should enforce a minimum time for local programming.

Stations should not be evaluated on non-programming efforts such as "participation in local community activities or sponsoring fundraisers" because it is a form of advertising.

The FCC should eliminate "Payola" from outside promoters and rewrite the law accordingly. It doesn't matter who pays...it is still bribing. They should prohibit the proactive accepting of any payments from anybody that does music research, or makes programming suggestions no matter who is offering. An artist that does a free concert for a radio station, either for a charity or not, should not be considered a form of payola. Record labels should be allowed to buy ad spots on stations to play their band's songs as an announced ad.

It is the practice of National Playlists that causes broadcasters to have to

resort to specialty shows for local artists. National Playlists and the Payola system will insure that local artists will never get the type of radio airplay that they should. This system is unfair to anybody that does not have any money to support a radio campaign. The system benefits major record labels that can afford to push their priority artists on the public while shutting out the small, independent artists.

I would like to thank the FCC for allowing these views to be heard.